

Message Text

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65

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 TRSE-00 L-03

COME-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FRB-03 STR-04

SP-02 CIEP-01 /045 W

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P R 111945Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6707

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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SAN JOSE FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PN

SUBJECT: CURRENT STATUS OF AUSTRALIAN BEEF - UPDATE

REF: PANAMA 0860

1. WE RECEIVED A CALL FROM RAFAEL ZUBIETA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, ON FEBRUARY 9 INFORMING US THAT HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT 1.2 MILLION POUNDS OF AUSTRALIAN BEEF AND FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS OF PANAMANIAN BEEF HAD BEEN EXPORTED FROM PANAMA TO THE UNITED STATES SINCE THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. INQUIRIES AT THE OFFICE OF PRICE CONTROL HAVE VERIFIED THIS REPORT, INDICATING THAT PANAM'S 1976 EXPORTS OF BEEF TO THE U.S. TOTALLED 1.44 MILLION POUNDS OF AUSTRALIAN BEEF AND 683 THOUSAND POUNDS OF PANAMANIAN BEEF THROUGH FEBRUARY 10. SOME OF THIS MEAT HAS BEEN EXPORTED AS STEW BEEF OUTSIDE THE QUOTA--AN EXACT BREAKDOWN SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM U.S. COSTOMS.

2. THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS ACTION FOR THE PANAMANIAN CATTLEMEN IS CLEAR; THE JANUARY 30TH AGREEMENT WITH THE MEAT PACKERS AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES RESTRICTING THE RE-

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EXPORT OF AUSTRALIAN BEEF (REFTEL) WAS REACHED ONLY AFTER A

CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF PANAMA'S PROSPECTIVE 1976 VOLUNTARY
RESTRAINT PROGRAM QUOTA HAD ALREADY BEEN UTILIZED. THE
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION IS CURRENTLY PREPARING A POSITION
PAPER ON THE AUSTRALIAN BEEF "LAUNDERING" OPERATION WHICH
COULD DRIVE A FURTHER WEDGE BETWEEN THE GOP AND THE PRIVATE
SECTOR. JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 FEB 1976
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760052-0759
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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